

erupted when a series of armed incursions into Guinea from Liberia and Sierra Leone provoked a violent reaction on the part of Guinean authorities who rounded up and arrested thousands of foreigners, including refugees, accusing them of aiding the attackers.

On Sunday, in the town of Macenta, Mensah Kpognon, a Togolese employee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was killed, and another UNHCR worker from the Ivory Coast, Sapeu Laurence Djeya, was abducted by unidentified attackers. Reports indicate that dozens of civilians were also killed in the raid.

This terrible tragedy marks the fourth murder of a UNHCR worker in less than two weeks. Three others, including an American citizen, Carlos Caceres, were murdered on September 6, 2000 in Atambua, West Timor by a militia mob while Indonesian armed forces and police failed to stop the violence.

These terrible crimes, committed against individuals who dedicated their lives to helping others in need, must not continue. All responsible members of the international community must work together to provide security for the humanitarian workers laboring in difficult conditions around the globe. Governments in the region must ensure that those responsible for these acts must be held accountable for their actions. Cross-border raids into Guinea must be stopped. And most urgently, the governments of West Africa must work to find Sapeu Laurence Djeya and to ensure her safety and freedom.

THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the International Academic Opportunity Act introduced by Senator's LUGAR, FEINGOLD, COLLINS and me. This bill provides \$1.5 million in scholarships to low income college students to finance their study abroad. It is estimated that this program will help over 300 students in its first year. I believe that this legislation will provide needed resources to help low income students compete in today's global marketplace.

In this era of globalization, it has become imperative for America's students to be prepared to operate in an international environment and economy. By studying abroad, students will be exposed to different languages and cultures that will help them become the successful leaders in the future.

This scholarship, otherwise referred to as the Gilman Scholarship Act, because it was the developed by the Hon. BENJAMIN GILMAN of New York, will provide up to \$5000 per student for their study abroad. Mr. GILMAN targeted these scholarships to low income students who otherwise would not have been able to consider a study abroad

program. I believe that by increasing the number of students that will benefit from an international education we can only enhance the capacity of our citizens to participate in a global society.

This legislation passed unanimously in the House and I hope that we will be able to pass it in the Senate before the end of session. I urge leadership and my fellow Senators to support a swift and unhindered passage.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, September 19, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,658,234,946,688.07, five trillion, six hundred fifty-eight billion, two hundred thirty-four million, nine hundred forty-six thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars and seven cents.

Five years ago, September 19, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,965,955,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred sixty-five billion, nine hundred fifty-five million.

Ten years ago, September 19, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,232,292,000,000, three trillion, two hundred thirty-two billion, two hundred ninety-two million.

Fifteen years ago, September 19, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,823,102,000,000, one trillion, eight hundred twenty-three billion, one hundred two million.

Twenty-five years ago, September 19, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$550,758,000,000, five hundred fifty billion, seven hundred fifty-eight million which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,107,476,946,688.07, five trillion, one hundred seven billion, four hundred seventy-six million, nine hundred forty-six thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars and seven cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JOAB M. LESESNE, JR.

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, now here is one thing with which I can agree, and not be in a minority. Dr. Joab M. Lesesne, Jr. has not only headed Wofford College with distinction for 28 years, but he has brought luster to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities as its Chairman. A man of many talents, Joe served as a general in the South Carolina National Guard and is presently Chairman of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Governing Board. Dr. Shi, the eminent President of Furman University, cites this record better than I in a recent editorial in the Greenville News. I ask that the editorial be reprinted in the RECORD.

The material follows:

[From the Greenville News, Sept. 17, 2000]

JOE LESESNE STANDS AS A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

(By David Shi)

In an age with few heroes, it becomes even more important to honor those who stand above the crowd. Last week, Furman University had the privilege of bestowing an honorary doctoral degree on Joab Lesesne, the recently retired president of Wofford College. He had served it well—with a special genius that everyone observed yet no one can define.

Joe Lesesne was raised on a college campus. His father, a Wofford graduate, served as president of Erskine College. After graduating from Erskine, the younger Lesesne went on to earn his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from the University of South Carolina. He began his career at Wofford in 1964 as an assistant professor of history, and he soon distinguished himself in the classroom. Lesesne was a luminous teacher who made the past shine with interest and significance.

Professor Lesesne was appointed assistant dean in 1967. Soon thereafter, he implemented the college's interim term, a four-week winter learning program that has become an indispensable part of a Wofford education. He later became director of development and then dean of the college. In 1972, at the ripe age of 34, he was named Wofford's ninth president.

Lesesne quickly realized that going from the faculty to the presidency means abandoning righteousness for pragmatism. He also discovered that a college president needs the endurance of an athlete, the wisdom of a Solomon and the courage of a lion. But perhaps most important is to have the stomach of a goat in order to accommodate all of the civic club luncheons, campus banquets and meals-on-the-run.

As a resolute champion of the distinctive virtues of residential liberal arts colleges, Lesesne led Wofford through a remarkable era of progress, change and achievement. The college's endowment soared during his long tenure, new buildings were constructed, and he helped attract a stronger, more diverse faculty and student body. Along the way, President Lesesne displayed extraordinary composure and resilience. Hard to surprise and even harder to shock, he displayed the magnanimity of a saint in dealing with complaints and crises.

President Lesesne became a leader of national prominence within the higher education community. He was the first Southerner to chair the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and he headed the council of presidents of South Carolina's private colleges. In addition, he is a retired major general in the South Carolina Army National Guard, and he continues to chair the South Carolina Commission on Natural Resources.

Yet the real value of a career can sometimes be better gauged by a person's character than by a public portfolio. Joe Lesesne is a genial representative of a fast vanishing world of grace, civility, loyalty, faith and moral rectitude. A warm man with a big heart, he has no enemies—even among those who disagree with him. Known for his casual intensity and refreshing humility, he loves to tell stores and to catch fish.

For almost 30 years as a college president, Joe Lesesne manifested unshaken nerve, rescuing wit, and, above all, a love for Wofford